

II. REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Applicants gratefully acknowledge the interview granted by Examiner Leung and Examiner Tran on August 2, 2005 (See Examiner's Interview Summary, dated August 2, 2005).

Claims 1 and 28 have been amended. In particular, claims 1 and 28 have been amended to delete the phrase "wherein the second reactor structural component is dimensioned to have a first diameter" and the phrase "and the second reflector includes a dimension exceeding one half the first diameter of the second reactor structural component," the later of which had been objected to by the Examiner. Furthermore, claims 1 and 28 have been amended to recite "the first reflector and the second reflector each include a beveled peripheral portion inclined in cross-section" as supported by Figures 5, 8 and 12 of the originally filed disclosure. A "bevel" is "the inclination that one line or surface makes with another when not at right angles." RANDOM HOUSE WEBSTER'S COLLEGE DICTIONARY 131 (1991). The "beveled peripheral portion" is clearly evident from original Figures 5, 8 and 12.

Claims 34-37 have been added. New claims 34 and 37, respectively, depend on independent claims 1 and 28 and further recite "wherein the second reflector is clamped by bolts to the inside wall surface of the second reactor structural component" as supported on page 1, line 25, to page 2, line 2, of the specification and by Figures 5 and 8 of the application as originally filed. New claims 35 and 36, respectively, depend on independent claims 23 and 26 and further recite "wherein the ...reflector is clamped by bolts to the inside wall surface of the second reactor structural component" as supported on page 1, line 25, to page 2, line 2, of the specification and by Figure 6 of the application as originally filed.

The present amendment adds no new matter to the application.

A. The Invention

The present invention pertains generally to the field of generating and feeding water from a catalytic reaction involving hydrogen and oxygen, wherein the moisture generated is used in the production of semiconductors. More particularly, the present invention pertains to an apparatus for generating and feeding moisture that includes: (a) a reactor having an upstream gas inlet side, a downstream moisture outlet side and a catalyst for generating moisture from hydrogen and oxygen; (b) means for reducing pressure provided on the downstream side of the reactor, and disposed so that moisture leaving and fed from said reactor is reduced in pressure by the means for reducing pressure while an internal high pressure in the reactor is maintained, wherein the means for reducing pressure comprises one or more components selected from the group consisting of an orifice, a valve, a capillary and a filter; (c) a second reactor structural component, and a first reactor structural component; and (d) a process chamber, wherein the reactor is connected to feed moisture gas to the process chamber, wherein the moisture gas fed into the process chamber is reduced in pressure by the means for reducing pressure.

In certain embodiments of the present invention, such as those recited in claims 1 and 28, the apparatus for generating and feeding moisture includes a first reflector and a second reflector, wherein each reflector includes a “beveled peripheral portion inclined in cross-section.”

In other embodiments of the present invention, such as those recited in claims 23 and 26, the first reactor structural component and the second reactor structural component are mated to form a reactor shell having an interior space, wherein the interior space is dimensioned to provide a first distance separating a material gas supply passage and a moisture outlet passage, and a first reflector is disposed in the interior space “wherein the

first reflector is a thick plate that includes a peripheral portion inclined in cross-section” and has “a thickness exceeding one-half of the first distance.”

Various other embodiments of the presently claimed invention are recited in the dependant claims. The various embodiments, in accordance with the presently claimed invention, share many advantages over the prior art moisture generating apparatuses. Specifically, having “means for reducing pressure,” such as recited in claims 1, 23, 26 and 28, on the downstream of the moisture outlet side of the reactor of an apparatus for generating and feeding moisture serves to maintain the internal pressure of the reactor for generating moisture while ensuring a reduced pressure of the moisture gas in the process chamber connected to the reactor. In this way, the apparatus, in accordance with the present invention, for generating and feeding moisture can react hydrogen and oxygen in a reactor to generate water while obviating the risk that pressure drops due to moisture leaving the reactor will trigger an explosion.

In addition, the flat, beveled plate geometry of the first and second reflectors used in embodiments recited by claims 1 and 28, and the thick plate geometry of the reflector used in embodiments recited by claims 23 and 26, of the invention provide an apparatus for generating and feeding moisture that can generate moisture at greater rates than if other conventional reflectors were used while at the same time preventing local temperature rise on the outer peripheral portion of each reflector. More specifically, in those embodiments in accordance with the present invention that include a first reflector and a second reflector, greater rates of moisture generation are observed, while preventing local temperature rise on the peripheral portion, when the first reflector and the second reflector each include a beveled peripheral portion inclined in cross section. In other embodiments in accordance with the present invention, where the apparatus includes a reflector that is a thick plate, improved rates of moisture generation are observed when the

interior space is dimensioned to provide a first distance separating the material gas supply passage and the moisture outlet passage and the reflector has a thickness exceeding one half of the first distance.

B. The Rejections

Claims 1, 22, 23, 25, 26, 28 and 30-32 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, for failing to comply with the written description requirement. Claims 1, 22 and 28 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as indefinite.

Claims 1, 22 and 28 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by, or in the alternative, as rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over, Ohmi et al. (WO 98/57884, hereafter the WO'884 Document).

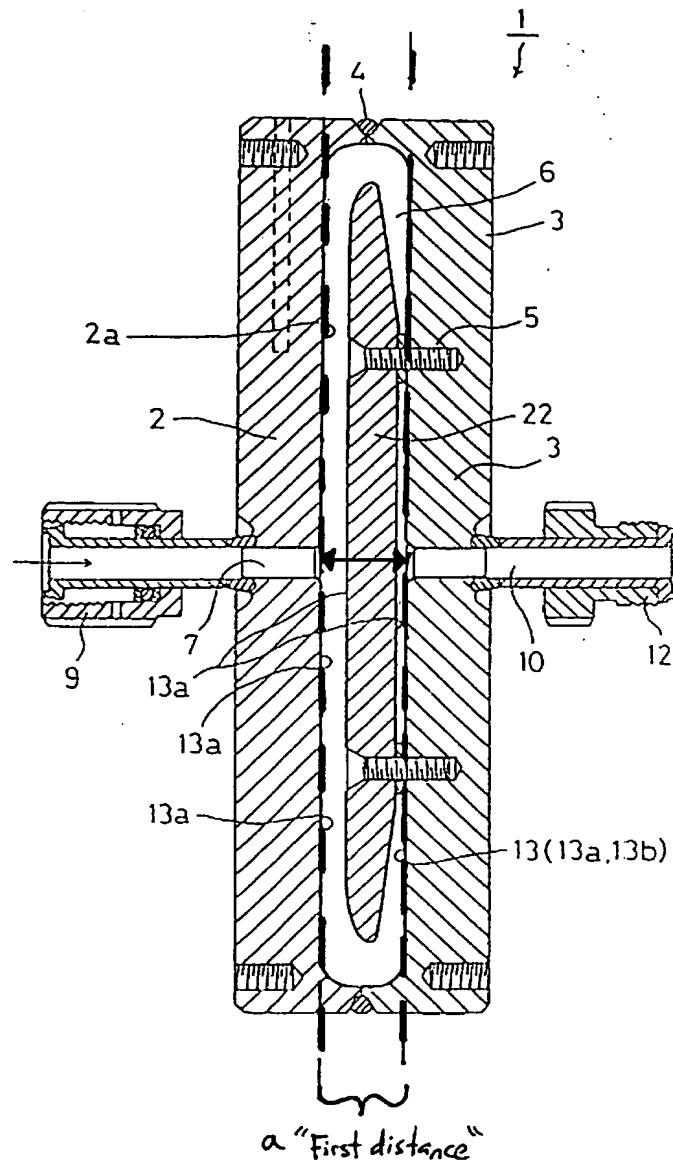
Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection and request reconsideration of the present application for the following reasons.

C. Applicants' Arguments

In view of the present amendment, claims 1, 22, 23, 25, 26, 28 and 30-33 are now in compliance with 35 U.S.C. § 112. In particular, with respect to claims 1, 22 and 28, the allegedly non-compliant limitations pertaining to the relative dimensions between the second reflector and the second reactor structural component have been removed from these claims.

With respect to claims 23 and 26, which pertain to an embodiment of the present invention shown in Figure 6, it is asserted that the limitation wherein there is a “first distance separating the material gas supply passage and the moisture outlet passage” and “the plate has a thickness exceeding one half of the first distance” is fully supported by Figure 6 of the original disclosure. Applicants assert that a person of ordinary skill in the art would be able to ascertain the definite scope of the claimed invention in light of the teachings of the present application disclosure. Solomon v. Kimberly-Clark Corp., 55 U.S.P.Q.2d 1279, 1282 (Fed. Cir. 2000). Regarding the drawings, the Federal Circuit has ruled that a drawing alone may provide a written description of the invention, sufficient to satisfy Section 112, when the drawing discloses the claimed invention to one skilled in the art. Vas-Cath Inc. v. Mahurkar, 19 U.S.P.Q.2d 111, 1118 (Fed. Cir. 1991).

In the present case, a sketch of original Figure 6 is reproduced below with marks highlighting a “first distance separating the material gas supply passage and the moisture outlet passage” as would be appreciated from original Figure 6 by a person of ordinary skill in the art. Furthermore, a person of ordinary skill in the art would recognize from original Figure 6 that the “thick plate” has a “thickness exceeding one half of the first distance.”



The Examiner contends that original Figure 6 does not support the claimed relationships because it is “not to scale.” (Office Action, dated May 11, 2005, at 3, lines 6-14). However, whether or not Figure 6 is drawn to scale is irrelevant to the claimed invention because no absolute dimension is claimed. More specifically, the limitation wherein the “thick plate...has a thickness exceeding one half of the first distance” is a relative dimension defined in relation to the “first distance.” Applicants contend that a person of ordinary skill in the art would be able to ascertain the definite scope of the claimed invention in light of the teachings shown in original Figure 6.

D. The Prior Art Rejections

Anticipation requires the presence in a single prior art reference disclosure of each and every element of the claimed invention, arranged as in the claim. Lindemann Maschinenfabrik GMBH v. American Hoist & Derrick, 221 U.S.P.Q. 481, 485 (Fed. Cir. 1984). On the other hand, a patentability analysis under 35 U.S.C. § 103 requires (a) determining the scope and content of the prior art, (b) ascertaining the differences between the prior art and the claimed subject matter, (c) resolving the level of ordinary skill in the pertinent art, and (d) considering secondary considerations that may serve as indicia of nonobviousness or obviousness. Graham v. John Deere Co. of Kansas City, 148 U.S.P.Q. 459, 467 (1966). Furthermore, a proper rejection under Section 103 further requires showing (1) that the prior art would have suggested to a person of ordinary skill in the art that they should make the claimed device or carry out the claimed process, (2) that the prior art would have revealed to a person of ordinary skill in the art that in so making or doing, there would have been a reasonable expectation of success, and (3) both the suggestion and the reasonable expectation of success must be found in the prior art and not in the applicants' disclosure. In re Vaeck, 20 U.S.P.Q.2d 1438, 1442 (Fed. Cir. 1991).

In the present case, the art of record fails to establish anticipation because it does not teach each and every limitation of the claims, arranged as in the claims. For the same reasons, the art fails to render the subject matter of the instant claims obvious.

i. The WO'884 Document

The WO'884 Document teaches a “method for generating water for semiconductor production” and is the priority document for U.S. Patent 6,093,662 to Ohmi et al. (hereafter, the Ohmi'662 Patent). Applicants assert that the concordance between the WO'884 Document and the Ohmi'662 Patent is sufficient to reasonably characterize the teachings of the WO'884 Document based on the teachings of the Ohmi'662 Patent. Therefore, Applicants will characterize the teachings of the Ohmi'662 Patent and assert that the WO'884 Document discloses the same subject matter as the Ohmi'662 Patent and shares the same deficiencies as the Ohmi'662 Patent.

The Ohmi'662 Patent also teaches a “method for generating water for semiconductor production.” As shown in Figure 7, a reactor (1) is connected to semiconductor manufacturing facilities (SM), wherein a filter (F3) and a valve (V7) are disposed between the reactor (1) and the facilities (SM). The reactor (1) can generate approximately 1000 sccm of moisture (col. 7, lines 53-56) and operates at a reaction temperature of approximately 400°C (col. 2, lines 14-20).

In Figure 1, the Ohmi'662 Patent teaches that a reactor (1) can be connected to a moisture reservoir (R) and that a suction regulating valve (SV) connected to a pump (P) can be connected between the reactor (1) and the reservoir (R). In Figure 9, the Ohmi'662 Patent teaches that reactor (1) includes structural components (2), (3); inlet reflector unit (9) and outlet reflector unit (12) that are “flat” stainless disks having about the same diameter; a filter (10) and a platinum-coated layer (13), (col. 9, lines 56-64). However,

the “disks” (9) and (12) are not truly “flat,” as evident from Figure 9, because they include structures (9d) and (12a) that are clearly projections disposed at the peripheral portion of the disks (9) and (12). However, the ordinary meaning of the word “flat,” as used in the present application, is “having a surface that is without marked projections...” as defined by RANDOM HOUSE WEBSTER’S COLLEGE DICTIONARY 506 (1991). A copy of pages 131, 506, and 680 of the RANDOM HOUSE WEBSTER’S COLLEGE DICTIONARY (1991) are filed herewith.

Consequently, because the disks (9) and (12) have projections (9d) and (12a), these disks taught by the Ohmi’884 Document cannot be properly construed as “flat.”

Thus, the Ohmi’884 Document does not teach, or even suggest, a “first reflector” and a “second reflector” that are “identical flat plates” as recited in claims 1 and 28.

Furthermore, the Ohmi’662 Patent does not teach, or even suggest, the first reflector and the second reflector “each include a beveled peripheral portion inclined in cross-section” as recited in claims 1 and 28 of the present application. As discussed above, a “beveled...portion” would include an “inclination that one...surface makes with another when not at right angles” as supported by RANDOM HOUSE WEBSTER’S COLLEGE DICTIONARY 131 (1991). Furthermore, the Ohmi’662 patent does not teach, or even suggest, the “beveled peripheral portion” is “inclined in cross-section,” which further emphasizes the “sloping” nature of the cross-section. See RANDOM HOUSE WEBSTER’S COLLEGE DICTIONARY 680 (1991). From this analysis, it is evident that the Ohmi’884 Document does not teach, or even suggest, that the first reflector and the second reflector “each include a beveled peripheral portion inclined in cross-section” as recited in claims 1 and 28 of the present application

The Ohmi’884 Document also does not teach, or even suggest, a “reflector” that “is a thick plate...wherein the plate has a thickness exceeding one half of the first

distance” as recited in claims 23 and 26 of the present application and as conceded by the Examiner in the Office Action of May 11, 2005.

Lastly, the Ohmi’884 Document does not teach, or even suggest, that a “reflector is clamped by bolts to the inside wall surface of the second reactor structural component” as recited in claims 34-37 of the application. Instead, the Ohmi’884 Document teaches that the inlet reflector unit (9) and the outlet reflector unit (12) are welded, respectively, to the structural components (2) and (3) using the projections (9d) and (12a). However, by employing “bolts” to clamp the structures together simplifies the formation of the “platinum coated catalyst layer.”

E. Other Advantages of the Present Invention Over the Device of the Ohmi’884 Document

An apparatus for generating and feeding moisture, which employs a reactor in accordance with the present invention, enhances safety by increasing the ignition temperature of hydrogen inside of the reactor for generating moisture. This safety feature is achieved by combining the reactor, in accordance with the present invention, with a means for reducing pressure, which permits the apparatus to hold the internal pressure of the reactor at a high value. This combination of features for enhancing safety has never before been described in the prior art. For example, the filter (F3), valves V₆, V₇ of Figure 7 of the Ohmi’884 Document, and valves SV and V₄- V₆ of Figure 6 of the Ohmi’884 Document, are not employed to raise the ignition temperature of hydrogen inside the reactor.

Another advantage of the present invention over the device taught by the Ohmi’884 Document is that no filter is required to be placed within the interior space of the reactor shell. On the other hand, the device taught by the Ohmi’884 Document is

necessarily equipped with a filter (10) that is located within the interior space of the reactor as shown in Figures 8, 9 and 10. As a practical matter, because the reactor of the present invention does not have to have a filter disposed in the interior space, the volume of the interior space can be reduced. This volume reduction permits downsizing of the reactor shell, which also makes the welding together of the reactor structural components tremendously easy.

Yet another advantage of the present invention over the device taught by the Ohmi'884 Document, is that the apparatus of present invention is constructed so the means for reducing pressure maintains a high pressure in the reactor while the moisture gas feed into the process chamber is reduced in pressure by the means for reducing pressure. In this way, safety is further enhanced because the pressure in the process chamber has a lot to do with the safety of the reactor of the present invention. In other words, safety is ensured by maintaining high pressure in the reactor and low pressure in the process chamber.

Applicants assert that all of these advantages achieved by the apparatus of the present invention, when considered along with the whole invention, should be construed as indicia of non-obviousness.

III. Conclusion

In view of the present amendment, claims 1, 22, 23, 25, 26, 28 and 30-37 are in compliance with 35 U.S.C. § 112. In particular, the limitation wherein the “reflector...is a thick plate...wherein the plate has a thickness exceeding one half of the first distance,” as recited in independent claims 23 and 26, is fully supported by Figure 6 of the originally filed disclosure. No prior art rejection is pending against independent claims 23 and 26.

With respect to independent claims 1 and 28, the Section 102 and 103 rejections standing against these claims are untenable and must be withdrawn because the Ohmi’884 Document does not teach, or even suggest, the “first reflector” and the “second reflector” are “identical flat plates” and that “each include a beveled peripheral portion inclined in cross-section” as recited by these claims.

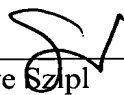
All of the remaining claims depend either directly, or indirectly, on claims 1, 23, 26 or 28, and are likewise allowable.

For all of the above reasons, claims 1, 22, 23, 25, 26, 28 and 30-37 are in condition for allowance, and a prompt notice of allowance is earnestly solicited.

Questions are welcomed by the below signed attorney of record for the Applicants.

Respectfully submitted,

GRIFFIN & SZIPL, PC



Joerg-Uwe Szimpl
Reg. No. 31,799

GRIFFIN & SZIPL, PC
Suite PH-1
2300 Ninth Street, South
Arlington, VA 22204
Telephone: (703) 979-5700
Facsimile: (703) 979-7429
Customer No.: 24203

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bevel square

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undergarments. —*v.t.* 4. to rub with flannel. [1300-50; ME *flanneol*, perh. dissimilated var. of *flann* sackcloth < Welsh; cf. Welsh *gwlanen* woolen article = *gwlan* wool (akin to *l. lana*) + *-en* suffix denoting a single item] —*flann*/nel-ly, *adj.*

flan-nel-et or **flan-nel-ette** (flan'nel et/), *n.* a warm soft cotton fabric, plain or printed, napped on one side. [1880-85]

flan-nel-mouthed (flan'nel moutht/), *adj.* 1. talking thickly, slowly, or haltingly. 2. characterized by deceptive or shifty speech. [1880-85; Amer.]

flap (flap), *v.* **flapped**, **flap-ping**, *n.* —*v.t.* 1. to swing or sway back and forth loosely, esp. with noise. 2. to move up and down, as wings or arms. 3. to strike a blow with something broad and flexible. 4. *Slang*, to talk in a foolish manner; babble. —*v.i.* 5. to move (wings, arms, etc.) up and down. 6. to cause to swing or sway loosely, esp. with noise. 7. to strike with something broad and flat. 8. to toss, fold, shut, etc., smartly, roughly, or noisily. 9. to pronounce (a sound) with a rapid flip of the tongue tip against the upper teeth or alveolar ridge. —*n.* 10. something flat and broad that is attached at one side only and hangs loosely or covers an opening. 11. either of the two segments of a book jacket folding under the book's front and back covers. 12. one leaf of a folding door, shutter, or the like. 13. a flapping motion. 14. the noise produced by something that flaps. 15. *Informal*, a. a state of nervous excitement. b. an emergency situation. c. scandal; trouble. 16. a movable surface used for increasing the lift or drag of an airplane. 17. a rapid flip of the tongue tip against the upper teeth or alveolar ridge, as in the *r*-sound in a common British pronunciation of *very* or the *t*-sound in a common American pronunciation of *water*. 18. a. Also called **flap hinge**, a hinge having a strap or plate for screwing to the face of a door, shutter, or the like. See *illus.* b. one leaf of a hinge. [1275-1325; ME *flappe* a blow, slap, *flappen* to hit, slap; cf. D *flap*, *flappen*] *orig. uncert.*

flap-doo-dle (flap'doodl/), *n.* *Informal*, nonsense; bosh. [1820-30; *orig. uncert.*]

flap-jack (flap'jak/), *n.* griddlecake; pancake. [1590-1600]

flap-pa-ble (flap'pə bəl), *adj.* *Informal*, easily upset or confused, esp. under stress. [1965-70; back formation from UNFLAPPABLE]

flap-per (flap'ər), *n.* 1. something broad and flat used for striking or for making a noise by striking. 2. a broad flat hinged or hanging piece; flap. 3. a young woman flouting conventional behavior esp. in the 1920s. 4. a young bird just learning to fly. [1560-70] —**flap-per-ish**, *adj.*

flare (flār), *v.* **flared**, **flar-ing**, *n.* —*v.t.* 1. to blaze with a sudden burst of flame (often fol. by *up*): *The fire flared up as the paper caught.* 2. to burn with an unsteady, swaying flame. 3. to burst out in sudden, fierce activity, passion, etc. (often fol. by *up* or *out*). 4. to shine or glow. 5. to spread gradually outward, as the end of a trumpet or the bottom of a wide skirt. —*v.i.* 6. to cause to flare. 7. to display conspicuously or ostentatiously. 8. to signal by flares of fire or light. 9. to discharge and burn (excess gas) at a well or refinery. 10. **flare out** or **up**, to become suddenly enraged. —*n.* 11. a flaring or swaying flame or light. 12. a sudden blaze or burst of flame. 13. a. a blaze of fire or light used as a signal, for illumination or guidance, etc. b. a device or substance producing such a blaze. 14. a sudden burst, as of zeal or of anger. 15. a gradual spread outward in form; outward curvature. 16. something that spreads out. 17. unwanted light reaching the image plane of an optical instrument, resulting from extraneous reflections, scattering by lenses, and the like. 18. a fogged appearance given to an image by reflection within a camera lens or within the camera itself. 19. **SOLAR FLARE**. [1540-50; *orig.* meaning: spread out, said of hair, a ship's sides, etc.; cf. OE *flære* either of the spreading sides at the end of the nose]

flare-back (flār'bak/), *n.* a blast of flame that sometimes issues from the breech of a large gun when it is opened after firing. [1900-05]

flare-up (flār'up/), *n.* 1. a sudden flaring up of flame or light. 2. a sudden outburst of anger. 3. a sudden outbreak of violence, disease, or other condition thought to be inactive. [1830-40]

flar-ing (flār'ing), *adj.* 1. blazing; flaming. 2. glaringly bright or showy. 3. spreading gradually outward in form: *a flaring skirt*. [1585-95] —**flar-ing-ly**, *adv.*

flash (flash), *n.* *v.* **flashed**, **flash-ing**, *adj.* —*n.* 1. a brief, sudden burst of bright light. 2. a sudden, brief outburst or display, as of joy or wit. 3. a very brief moment; instant. 4. **FLASHLIGHT** (def. 1). 5. gaudy or vulgar showiness; ostentatious display. 6. a brief dispatch giving preliminary news of an important story. 7. bright artificial light thrown briefly upon a subject during a photographic exposure. 8. the sudden flame or intense heat produced by a bomb or other explosive device. 9. a sudden thought, insight, or vision. 10. *Slang*, rush (def. 26). 11. a. a device, as a sluice, for confining and releasing water to send a vessel down a shallow stream. b. the rush of water thus produced. 12. **HOT FLASH**. 13. *Obs.* the cant or jargon of thieves, vagabonds, etc. —*v.i.* 14. to break forth into sudden flame or light, esp. transiently or intermittently. 15. to gleam. 16. to appear suddenly: *The answer flashed into his mind.* 17. to move like a flash. 18. to speak or behave with sudden anger, outrage, or the like (often fol. by *out*). 19. to break into sudden action. 20. *Slang*, to expose one's genitals in public. 21. *Slang*, to experience the intense effects of a narcotic or stimulant drug. —*v.t.* 22. to emit or send forth (fire or light) in sudden flashes. 23. to cause to flash, as powder by ignition or a sword by waving. 24. to send forth like a flash. 25. to communicate instantaneously, as by radio or telegraph. 26. to make an ostentatious display of. 27. to display suddenly and briefly: *She flashed her ID card at the guard.* 28. to increase the flow of water in (a river, channel, etc.). 29. a. to coat (glass or ceramics) with a layer of colored, opalescent, or white glass. b. to apply (such a layer). c. to color or make (glass) opaque by reheating. 30. to protect (a roof, etc.) from leakage with flashing. —*adj.* 31. sudden and brief: *a flash storm*. 32. showy; ostentatious. 33. counterfeit; sham. 34. belonging to or connected with thieves, vagabonds, etc., or their cant or jargon. 35. of or pertaining to followers of boxing, racing, etc. —*Idiom*. 36. **flash in the pan**, a. a brief intense effort that produces negligible results. b. a person whose promise or success is transitory. 37. **flash on**, *Slang*, to have a sudden vivid memory of or insight about. [1350-1400; ME, to sprinkle, splash, earlier *flask* (den; prob. phonethemic in *orig.*; cf. similar expressive words with *fl*- and *sh*)] —**flash'er**, *n.* —**flash-ing-ly**, *adv.*

flash-back (flash'bak/), *n.* 1. the insertion of an earlier event into the

chronological structure of a novel, motion picture, play, etc., or the scene so inserted. 2. Also called **flash/back hallucinosis**. *Psychiatry*, an abnormally vivid, often recurrent recollection of a disturbing past event, sometimes accompanied by hallucinations. [1910-15]

flash/bulb/ or **flash/ bulb/**, *n.* a glass bulb, filled with oxygen and aluminum or zirconium wire or foil, that when electrically ignited illuminates a photographic subject momentarily. [1930-35]

flash/card/ or **flash/ card/**, *n.* a card with words, numerals, etc., used as a teaching aid in rapid recognition drills. [1920-25]

flash-cube (flash'kyōōb/), *n.* a rotating cube attached to a camera that contains a flashbulb in four faces. [1960-65]

flash/ flood/, *n.* a sudden and destructive rush of water down a narrow gully or over a sloping surface, caused by heavy rainfall. [1935-40]

flash/-for/ward/, *n.* the insertion of a later event into the chronological structure of a novel, motion picture, play, etc., or the scene so inserted. [1945-50]

flash/-freeze/, *v.t.* **-froze**, **-fro-zen**, **-freez-ing**. **QUICK-FREEZE**. [1940-1945]

flash-gun (flash'gun/), *n.* a device that simultaneously discharges a flashbulb or flashtube and operates a camera shutter. [1925-30]

flash-ing (flash'ing), *n.* pieces of sheet metal or the like used to cover and protect certain joints and angles, as where a roof comes in contact with a wall or chimney, esp. against leakage. [1775-85]

flash/ lamp/ or **flash/lamp/**, *n.* a lamp for providing momentary illumination of the subject of a photograph. [1885-90]

flash-light (flash'lit/), *n.* 1. Also called, esp. *Brit.*, **torch**, a small portable electric lamp powered by dry batteries or a tiny generator. 2. a light that flashes, as a lighthouse beacon. 3. any source of artificial light as used in flash photography. [1885-90]

flash/light fish/, *n.* a deep-sea fish, *Photoblepharon palpebratus*, of the lanterneye family, with luminous cheek organs that can be flashed on and off with a lid. [1970-75]

flash-o-ver (flash'ō-ver/), *n.* a disruptive electrical discharge around or over the surface of a solid or liquid insulator. [1890-95]

flash/ photog/raphy/, *n.* photography using a momentary flash of artificial light as a source of illumination.

flash/ point/ or **flash/point/**, *n.* 1. the lowest temperature at which a liquid in a specified apparatus will give off sufficient vapor to ignite momentarily on application of a flame. 2. a point or stage at which an event or situation becomes critical. 3. a situation or area having the potential of erupting in sudden violence. [1875-80]

flash-tube (flash'tōōb/), *n.* **ELECTRONIC FLASH**. [1940-45]

flash-y (flash'ē), *adj.* **flash-i-er**, **flash-i-est**. 1. briefly and superficially sparkling or brilliant: *a flashy performance*. 2. ostentatious and tasteless; gaudy: *flashy clothes*. [1575-85] —**flash-i-ly**, *adv.* —**flash-i-ness**, *n.*

flask (flask, fläsk), *n.* 1. a bottle, usu. of glass, having a rounded body and a narrow neck. 2. a flat metal or glass bottle for carrying in the pocket: *a flask of brandy*. 3. an iron container for shipping mercury, holding a standard commercial unit of 76 lb. (34 kg). 4. a container into which sand is rammed around a pattern to form a mold. [1375-1425; late ME: cask, keg < AF, OF *flaske* < LL *flasca*, earlier *flasco*, of *uncert. orig.*; cf. OE *flasce*, *flaxe*, OHG *flasca*; cf. *FLAGON*]

flat (flat), *adj.* **flat-ter**, **flat-test**, *n.* *v.* **flat-ted**, **flat-ting**, *adv.* —*adj.* 1. horizontally level. 2. level, even, or without unevenness of surface, as land or tabletops. 3. having a surface that is without marked projections or depressions. 4. lying horizontally and at full length. 5. lying wholly on or against something. 6. thrown down, laid low, or level with the ground, as fallen trees or buildings. 7. having a generally level shape or appearance; not deep or thick. 8. (of the heel of a shoe) low and broad. 9. spread out, as an unrolled map or the open hand. 10. deflated; collapsed: *a flat tire*. 11. absolute, downright: *a flat denial*. 12. lacking modification or variation: *a flat rate*. 13. lacking vitality or animation; lifeless; dull. 14. having lost its flavor, sharpness, or life, as wine or food; stale. 15. (of a beverage) having lost its effervescence. 16. lacking flavor or piquancy: *flat cooking*. 17. pointless, as a remark or joke. 18. commercially inactive. 19. (of a painting) not having the illusion of volume or depth. 20. (of a photograph or painting) lacking contrast or gradations of tone or color. 21. (of paint) without gloss; not shiny; matte. 22. not clear, sharp, or ringing, as sound or a voice. 23. lacking resonance and variation in pitch; monotonous. 24. a. (of a tone) lowered a half step in pitch: *B flat*. b. below an intended pitch, as a note; too low (opposed to *sharp*). 25. **flat a**, the *a*-sound (a) of *glad*, *bat*, or *act*. —*n.* 26. something flat. 27. a shoe, esp. a woman's shoe, with a flat heel or no heel. 28. a flat surface, side, or part of anything. 29. flat or level ground; a flat area: *salt flats*. 30. a marsh, shoal, or shallow. 31. a. (in musical notation) the character *b*, which when attached to a note or to a staff degree lowers its significance one chromatic half step. b. a tone one chromatic half step below another. 32. a piece of stage scenery consisting of a wooden frame, usu. rectangular, covered with lightweight board or fabric. 33. a deflated automobile tire. 34. an iron or steel bar of rectangular cross section. 35. a shallow open box used for growing the young plants or a closable one for shipping fruits and vegetable. 36. the young plants or a closable one for shipping fruits and vegetable. 37. the area of a football field immediately inside of or outside of an offensive end, close behind or at the line of scrimmage. —*v.t.* 37. to make flat. 38. to lower (a pitch), esp. one half step. —*v.i.* 39. to become flat. —*adv.* 40. in a flat position; horizontally; levelly. 41. in a flat manner; positively; absolutely. 42. completely; utterly: *flat broke*. 43. exactly; precisely: *in two minutes flat*. 44. below the true pitch: *to sing flat*. —*Idiom*. 45. **flat flat**, to fail completely and noticeably. 46. **flat out**, *Informal*, a. without hesitation; directly or openly. b. at full speed or with maximum effort. [1275-1325; ME < ON *flatr*, akin to OE *flet* (see *FLAT*); *Ok plat's* (see *PLATY-*, *PLATE*)] —**flat/ly**, *adv.* —**flat/ness**, *n.*

flat (flat), *n.* a residential apartment. [1795-1805; var. of obs. *flet*, OE: floor, house, hall; akin to *FLAT*]

flat-bed (flat'bed/), *n.* a truck or trailer having an open body in the form of a platform without sides or stakes. Also called **flat-bed trailer**. [1970-75]

flat-bed/ press/, *n.* CYLINDER PRESS.

flat-boat (flat'bōt/), *n.* a large flat-bottomed boat for use in shallow water, esp. on rivers. [1650-60]

= L. *in-* + *cessans*, prp. of *cessare* to stop work; see CEASE, -ANT)
 —*in-ces/san-cy*, *in-ces/sant-ness*, *n.* —*in-ces/sant-ly*, *adv.*
in-cest (in'sest), *n.* 1. sexual relations between persons so closely related that they are forbidden by law or religion to marry. 2. the crime of sexual relations, cohabitation, or marriage between such persons. [1175-1225; ME < L *incestus* (n.) sexual impurity, der. of *incestus* (adj.) profane, sexually impure (*in-* + *cestus* comb. form of *castus* CHASTE)]
in-ces-tu-ous (in ses'chōō es), *adj.* 1. involving incest. 2. guilty of incest. 3. too closely interconnected: an incestuous relationship between business and government. [1525-35; < LL *incestuosus* = L *incestu-*, s. of *incestus* INCEST + *-ōsus* -OUS] —*in-ces/tu-ous-ly*, *adv.* —*in-ces/tu-ous-ness*, *n.*
inch (inč), *n.*, *v.*, *inched*, *inching*. —*n.* 1. a unit of length, 1/12 of a foot, equivalent to 2.54 centimeters. 2. a very small amount, degree, or distance: averted disaster by an inch. —*v.t.*, *v.i.* 3. to move by small degrees: We inched along the road. —*Idiom*. 4. every inch, in every respect, completely. 5. within an inch of, nearly; close to. [bef. 1000; ME, OE *ynce* < L *uncia* twelfth part, inch, ounce. See OUNCE]
inch² (inč), *n.* Chiefly Scot.: ISLAND. [1375-1425; late ME < Scot Gael *innse*, gen. of *innis* island, OIr *inīs*, c. Welsh *ynys*]
inch-meal (inč'mēl), *adv.* by inches; little by little. [1520-30; INCH + -MEAL]
in-cho-ate (in kō'it, -āt; esp. Brit. in kō'āt), *adj.* 1. not yet completed or fully developed. 2. just begun; incipient. [1525-35; < L *inchoatus*, var. of *incohatus*, ptp. of *incohare* to begin, start work on, perh. = *in-* + *-cohare*, v. der. of *cohū* hollow of a yoke into which the pole is fitted] —*in-cho/ate-ly*, *adv.* —*in-cho/ate-ness*, *n.*
in-cho-a-tive (in kō'ə tiv), *adj.* 1. INCEPTIVE (def. 2). —*n.* 2. an inceptive verb. [1520-30; < LL *inchoativum* (verbum) inceptive (verb). See INCHO-ATE, -IVE]
In-chon (in'chŏn), *n.* a seaport in W South Korea. 1,387,475. Formerly, Chemulpo.
inch-pound, *n.* one-twelfth of a foot-pound. *Abbr.*: in-lb
inch-worm (inč'wŭrm), *n.* MEASURINGWORM. [1860-65]
in-ci-dence (in'si dēns), *n.* 1. the rate or range of occurrence or influence of something: a high incidence of flu. 2. occurrence; happening. 3. a. the striking of a ray of light, beam of electrons, etc., on a surface, or the direction of striking. b. ANGLE OF INCIDENCE (def. 1). [1375-1425; late ME < LL *incidentia*; see INCIDENT, -ENCE]
in-ci-dent (in'si dēnt), *n.* 1. an occurrence or event. 2. a distinct piece of action, as in a story. 3. something that occurs casually in connection with something else. 4. something appertaining or attaching to something else. 5. a seemingly minor occurrence, esp. involving nations or factions, that can lead to serious consequences: a border incident. —*adj.* 6. likely to happen. 7. naturally appertaining: hardships incident to the life of an explorer. 8. conjoined, esp. as subordinate to a principal thing. 9. falling or striking on something, as light rays. [1375-1425; late ME < MF < ML *incident-*, s. of *incidens* a happening, n. use of prp. of *l. incidere* to befall = *in-* + *-cidere*, comb. form of *cadere* to fall] —*Syn.* See EVENT
in-ci-den-tal (in'si dēn'tl), *adj.* 1. happening or likely to happen in an unplanned or subordinate conjunction with something else. 2. incurred casually and in addition to the regular or main amount: incidental expenses. —*n.* 3. something incidental. 4. INCIDENTALS, minor expenses. [1610-20] —*in-ci-den-tal-ness*, *n.*
in-ci-den-tal-ly (in'si dēn'tl ē or, for 1, -dēn'tlē), *adv.* 1. apart or aside from the main subject; parenthetically. 2. by chance. [1655-65]
in-ciden-tal mu/sic, *n.* music intended primarily to point up or accompany parts of the action of a play or to serve as transitional material between scenes. [1860-65]
in-cin-er-ate (in sin'ə rāt'), *v.t.*, -at-ed, -at-ing, to cause to burn to ashes; cremate. [1545-55; < ML *incineratus*, ptp. of *incinerare* to burn the ashes = L *in-* + *-cinere*, v. der. of *cinis*, s. *ciner-* ashes] —*in-cin-er-a-tion*, *n.*
in-cin-er-a-tor (in sin'ə rāt'ŏr), *n.* a furnace or apparatus for incinerating materials. [1880-85]
in-cip-i-en-cy (in sip'ē en sē) also *in-cip'i-ence*, *n.* the state or condition of being incipient. [1810-20]
in-cip-i-ent (in sip'ē en t), *adj.* addressed, as we in *Shall we dance?* Compare EXCLUSIVE (def. 9). —*Idiom*. 4. INCLUSIVE OF, including: Europe inclusive of Britain. [1400-50; late ME < ML *inclusivus* = L *includere* (see INCLUDE) + *-ivus* -IVE] —*in-clu/sive-ly*, *adv.* —*in-clu/sive-ness*, *n.*
in-co-er-ci-ble (in kō'ēr'sə bəl), *adj.* not coercible. [1700-10]
in-cog-i-tant (in kō'j tāt), *adj.* thoughtless; inconsiderate. [1620-30; < L *incogitant-*, s. of *incogitans* = *in-* + *cogitans*, prp. of *cogitare* to think; see COGITATE, -ANT] —*in-cog/i-tant-ly*, *adv.*
in-cog-ni-ta (in kōg nē'ta, in kōg'ni tō'), *adv.*, *adj.*, *n.*, *pl.* -tas. —*adv.*, *adj.* 1. (of a woman or girl) with one's identity hidden or unknown. —*n.* 2. a woman or girl who is incognita. 3. the state or disguise of such a woman or girl. [1660-70; < It. fem. of *incognito*]
in-cog-ni-to (in kōg nē'tō, in kōg'ni tō'), *adv.*, *adj.*, *n.*, *pl.* -tos. —*adv.*, *adj.* 1. with one's identity hidden or unknown. —*n.* 2. a person who is incognito. 3. the state or disguise of such a person. [1630-40; < It < L *incognitus* unknown = *in-* + *cognitus*, ptp. of *cognoscere* to get to know; see COGNITION]
in-cog-ni-zant (in kōg'ni zant), *adj.* lacking knowledge or awareness. [1830-40] —*in-cog/ni-zance*, *n.*
in-co-her-ence (in kō hēr'ans, -her'-), *n.* 1. the quality or state of being incoherent. 2. something that is incoherent. [1605-15]
in-co-her-en-cy (in kō hēr'an sē, -her'-), *n.*, *pl.* -cies. INCOHERENCE. [1675-85]
in-co-her-ent (in kō hēr'ent, -her'-), *adj.* 1. lacking logical or meaningful connection: incoherent thoughts. 2. inarticulate; incoherent with rage. 3. lacking cohesion; loose; disjointed. [1620-30] —*in-co/her-ent-ly*, *adv.*
in-com-bus-ti-ble (in kəm bus'tə bəl), *adj.* not combustible; incapable of being burned. [1425-75; late ME < ML] —*in-com/bus-ti-bil-i-ty*, *n.* —*in-com/bus-ti-ble-ness*, *n.* —*in-com/bus-ti-bly*, *adv.*

an underlying sense of awakening from sleep or inactivity: to rouse an apathetic team. PROVOKE means to stir to sudden, strong feeling or vigorous action: NICKING the animal provoked it to attack.
in-ci-vil-i-ty (in'sə vil'i tē), *n.*, *pl.* -ties. 1. the quality or state of being uncivil. 2. an uncivil act. [1575-85; < LL] —*in-civ'il (-siv'al)*, *adj.*
incl., including.
in-clem-ent (in klem'ent), *adj.* 1. severe; stormy: inclement weather. 2. not kind or merciful. [1615-25; < L *inclement-*, s. of *inclemens*; *in-*, see CLEMENT] —*in-clem/en-cy*, *in-clem/ent-ness*, *n.* —*in-clem/ent-ly*, *adv.*
in-clin-a-ble (in kli'na bəl), *adj.* 1. having a mental tendency in a certain direction. 2. favorable. 3. capable of being inclined. [1400-50]
in-clin-a-tion (in kli'nā shən), *n.* 1. a special disposition of the mind or temperament; a liking or preference: a great inclination for sports. 2. something to which one is inclined. 3. the act of inclining or state of being inclined: an inclination of the head. 4. a tendency toward a certain condition, action, etc. 5. deviation or amount of deviation from a normal, esp. horizontal or vertical, direction or position. 6. an inclined surface. 7. a. the angle between two lines or two planes. b. the angle formed by the x-axis and a given line. [1350-1400; ME < L] —*in-clin-a-tion-al*, *adj.*
in-cline (v. in klin'; *n.* in klin', in klin'), *v.*, -clined, -clin-ing, *n.* —*v.t.* 1. to deviate from the vertical or horizontal; slant. 2. to have a mental tendency, preference, etc.; be disposed: He inclines toward mysticism. 3. to approach; approximate: The color inclines toward blue. 4. to tend in character or in course of action. 5. to lean; bend. —*v.t.* 6. to persuade; dispose: Her attitude did not incline me to help her. 7. to bow; bend: inclined his head in greeting. 8. to cause to lean or bend in a particular direction. —*n.* 9. an inclined surface; slope; slant. [1300-50; ME *enclinen* < MF *encliner* < L *inclinare* = *in-* + *-clinare* to bend (see LEAN)] —*in-clin'er*, *n.*
in-clined (in klin'd), *adj.* 1. deviating in direction from the horizontal or vertical; sloping. 2. disposed; of a mind: He was inclined to stay. 3. tending in a direction that makes an angle with a plane or line. [1350-1400]
inclined plane, *n.* one of the simple machines, a plane surface inclined to the horizon, or forming with a horizontal plane any angle but a right angle. [1700-10]
in-clip-nom-e-ter (in kli'p nŏm'i tər), *n.* 1. an instrument for measuring the angle an aircraft makes with the horizontal. 2. an instrument with an iron needle swinging freely in the vertical direction for measuring magnetic dip. [1835-45]
in-clip (in klip'), *v.t.*, -clipped, -clip-ping, *Archaic*, to grasp or enclose. [1600-10; *in-* + *clip* (v.)]
in-close (in klōz'), *v.t.*, -closed, -clos-ing, *ENCLOSE*.
in-clo-sure (in klōz'zhər), *n.* ENCLOSURE.
in-clude (in klūd'), *v.t.*, -cluded, -clud-ing, 1. to contain or encompass as part of a category: The meal includes dessert and coffee. 2. to place as part of a category. 3. to enclose. [1375-1425; late ME < L *includere* to shut in = *in-* + *-cludere*, comb. form of *cludere* to shut (cf. CLOSE)] —*in-clud/a-ble*, *in-clud-i-ble*, *adj.* —*Syn.* INCLUDE, COMPREHEND, COMPRISE, EMBRACE imply containing parts of a whole, INCLUDE means to contain as a part or member of a larger whole; it may indicate one, several, or all parts: This anthology includes works by Sartre and Camus. The price includes appetizer, main course, and dessert. COMPREHEND means to have within the limits or scope of a larger whole: The plan comprehends several projects. COMPRISE means to consist of; it usually indicates all of the various parts serving to make up the whole: This genus comprises 50 species. EMBRACE emphasizes the extent or assortment of that which is included: The report embraces a great variety of subjects.
in-clu-sion (in klōz'zhən), *n.* 1. the act of including or the state of being included. 2. something that is included. 3. a foreign body or inert structure within a cell. 4. a solid, liquid, or gaseous body enclosed within a mineral or rock. [1590-1600; < L *includō* confinement = *includere* (see INCLUDE) + *-iō* -TION]
in-clu-sive (in klōz'siv), *adj.* 1. including the limit or extremes in consideration or account: from 6 to 37 inclusive. 2. including everything; comprehensive: an inclusive fee. 3. (of a first person plural pronoun) including the person addressed, as we in *Shall we dance?* Compare EXCLUSIVE (def. 9). —*Idiom*. 4. INCLUSIVE OF, including: Europe inclusive of Britain. [1400-50; late ME < ML *inclusivus* = L *includere* (see INCLUDE) + *-ivus* -IVE] —*in-clu/sive-ly*, *adv.* —*in-clu/sive-ness*, *n.*
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